

He also lectured, appeared on television and wrote articles on history. "No one writes better about California's irresistible past," said Ken Burns, the television documentary expert. "I am a huge fan."

"He was a towering figure in California history," said Gary Kurutz, principal librarian for special collections at the California State Library. "His death is a real loss."

Holliday was born Jaquelin Smith Holliday II, June 10, 1924, in Indianapolis. His family was in the steel business, and young J.S. Holliday attended private schools. He seldom used his given name. His friends called him "Jim."

Holliday attended midshipman school at Northwestern University during World War II and served in the U.S. Navy as an officer aboard an escort aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

He attended Yale University and graduated with a degree in history in 1948. At Yale, one of his teachers brought to his attention letters and a diary written by a man named William Swain, who set out from Michigan in 1849 with a group of adventurers called the Wolverine Rangers to make his fortune in far-off California.

In Swain, Holliday found his own mother lode. Swain's letters and diary—his adventures traveling across the Great Plains, down the dreary Humboldt River in Nevada, his trek across the Black Rock Desert, his life in the California Gold Country—were the basis for "The World Rushed In."

Holliday often said that the story of the Gold Rush—which he said was the greatest peacetime mass migration in history—brought him to California. He moved West in 1949, on the 100th anniversary of the Gold Rush. "I came here for gold and found other ways of seeking success in California," he said.

He got a doctorate in history from UC Berkeley in 1958 and a research fellowship at the Huntington Library, then worked at the Bancroft and taught at San Francisco State.

By then he had a considerable reputation as a forceful and vigorous exponent of his views of history. "He was one of the most vital people I ever knew," said Joe Illick, who served with him on the faculty at San Francisco State.

He was "a big, handsome, rumpled man with a passion for the rugged life." The Chronicle said of him when he had become well known. Early in his career, however, Holliday's passion for history did not always go down well with more sedate custodians of the State's past.

In 1967, he was named the founding director of what later became the much-praised Oakland Museum of California. However, he was so forceful and uncompromising in his views that he was fired just before the museum opened in 1969.

He then became executive director of the California Historical Society and organized a series of major traveling exhibitions, including one about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. "It caused quite a stir," said David Crossen, the current executive director of the society. "People in historical societies didn't deal with issues like that back then. He was a model for the young Turks in historical organizations."

Holliday served two terms in the top job at the California Historical Society. However, he always came back to the Gold Rush book. He felt the 1849 Gold Rush was a seminal event in the state's history that, in his words, "changed California, changed the whole West and changed America's sense of itself." He wanted to present it in human terms, to make the lives of the long-dead Forty-Niners come alive.

It took him 30 years to write.

"He was such a careful writer that it sometimes took him a week to get two para-

graphs right," said Kurutz. "He was as thorough as can be."

The result was what Starr called "a masterly narrative." The book won the Silver Medal of the Commonwealth Club of California and the Oscar Lewis Award for Achievement in Western History from the Book Club of California.

In 1999, Holliday wrote "Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California," which also received critical acclaim.

Holliday was married twice. His first marriage, to Nancy Adams, ended in divorce. He was married to Belinda Vidor Jones in 1983, and she survives him.

He also leaves three children: Timothy Holliday of New Orleans, Martha Brett Holliday of Farmington, Conn., and W.J. Holliday of Menlo Park.

A memorial service is pending.

[From the Carmel Pine Cone, Sept. 8, 2006]

GOLD RUSH HISTORIAN, CRA FOUNDER WAS AN "OVERSIZED SLICE OF LIFE"

(By Mary Brownfield)

"He was a very forceful and outspoken person, but also very sensitive and very gentle, too," John Hicks said of his friend, Jim Holliday, the notable California historian and author who died of pulmonary fibrosis at home in Carmel last Thursday morning at the age of 82. "That made for an interesting paradox, I think."

Mr. Holliday, who helped found the Carmel Residents Association after Clint Eastwood was elected mayor of the town 20 years ago and was named the group's Citizen of the Year in 2001, was best known for his books and studies on the California Gold Rush.

In 1981, Simon & Schuster published "The World Rushed In," which described the Gold Rush and its impacts on California's development and American values. The book, heralded by fellow historians, underwent 13 printings. Its latest edition, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, remains available.

In 1999, assisted by Hicks, he wrote "Rush for Riches: Gold Fever and the Making of California," copublished by the Oakland Museum and the University of California Press in Berkeley.

His writing earned honors from the Library of Congress, the Commonwealth Club of California (silver medal), the Book Club of California and Western Writers of America, Inc. Known as a strong speaker, Mr. Holliday lectured throughout the State and Nation.

In Carmel, Hicks and Mr. Holliday served on the board of trustees at Tor House. Hicks described his friend as a "big, vigorous person, but endlessly curious and a great listener," and said they agreed on the local and national significance of Robinson Jeffers and his historic home on the point.

"He was a big, oversized slice of life and more than some people could take at times, but he was a good spirit," Hicks said. "The little town will be different without him."

Attorney and CRA cofounder Skip Lloyd first met Mr. Holliday in San Francisco, and the two became reacquainted years later when Mr. Holliday moved to Carmel. Lloyd also lauded his friend's public speaking skills and said, "He brought tremendous enthusiasm, energy, generosity, leadership and a wonderful spirit" to the residents group. "He was a really accomplished person, but he never wore it on his sleeve," Lloyd said. "He was always friendly, helpful and generous to everybody."

Historian and longtime San Francisco Chronicle journalist Carl Nolte, who wrote Mr. Holliday's obituary for his newspaper, read Mr. Holliday's books "with much admiration" and described the author as "a charmer." "He was very, very impressive as an historian," Nolte said, "and also very

kind with his praise, which is rare among authors."

Born Jaquelin Smith Holliday II, on June 10, 1924, to steel magnate William J. Holliday and Martha Henley Holliday in Indianapolis, IN, Mr. Holliday was most commonly known as J.S.—Jim to his friends.

He graduated from the Hill School in Pottstown, PA, attended midshipman school at Northwestern University and served on the USS *Santee* in the Pacific during World War II. Mr. Holliday graduated from Yale University with a degree in history in 1948.

Drawn west, he undertook graduate studies in history at UC Berkeley in 1952 and received his Ph.D. in 1959, following a year as a research fellow at the Henry Huntington Library in San Marino. He also worked as an associate professor at San Francisco State University and a lecturer at other institutions. He was editor of "American West" magazine and served as executive director of the Oakland Museum of California. From 1970-1977 and 1983-1985, he was director of the California Historical Society.

Socially, Mr. Holliday belonged to the Bohemian and Roxbury clubs in San Francisco, and the Zamorano Club in Los Angeles.

His first marriage, to Nancy Adams, ended in divorce in 1974, and he married Carmel resident Belinda Vidor Jones in 1983. She and three children from his first marriage—Timothy Holliday of New Orleans, LA, Martha Brett Holliday of Farmington, CT, and William J. Holliday of Menlo Park—survive him.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF JOSE R. CORONADO

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the noteworthy career of Jose R. Coronado, the Director of the South Texas Veterans Health Care System STVHCS. Mr. Coronado has retired from this position, ending a long and illustrious 40-year career as a public servant. He is an incredibly accomplished man who has served this Nation with honor and distinction.

Too often, those who have chosen a career in public service are overlooked as their efforts are hidden behind the scenes. However, Mr. Coronado's impact on veterans healthcare cannot be ignored. As director of the STVHCS, Mr. Coronado has led one of the largest integrated healthcare systems in the Veterans Health Administration, VHA. He was responsible for a healthcare delivery system which has an annual budget of nearly \$430 million, is comprised of more than 2,800 employees, and consists of three divisions: the Audie L. Murphy Division, the Kerrville Division, and the Satellite Clinic Division.

Due to its affiliation with the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, the STVHCS has an active ambulatory care program with outpatient clinics in cities throughout South Texas. The system also serves as a parent facility for Veterans Outreach Centers in the region. Needless to say, Mr. Coronado was ultimately responsible for the care of veterans throughout South Texas.

Mr. Coronado's passion for serving the public, and his interest in health care, have been demonstrated throughout his career. He began